



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
17.09.2003 Bulletin 2003/38

(51) Int Cl.7: **H04M 3/54**

(43) Date of publication A2:
01.03.2000 Bulletin 2000/09

(21) Application number: **99112087.4**

(22) Date of filing: **23.06.1999**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(72) Inventor: **Stumer, Peggy M.**
Boca Raton, FL 33431 (US)

(74) Representative: **Allen, Derek et al**
Siemens Group Services Limited,
Intellectual Property Department,
Siemens House,
Oldbury
Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 8FZ (GB)

(30) Priority: **25.08.1998 US 139542**

(71) Applicant: **Siemens Information and**
Communication Networks, Inc.
Boca Raton, Florida 33487 (US)

(54) **Network directed call pickup service**

(57) A system and apparatus for enabling supplementary service functions, such as directed call pickup, to be implemented in a communications network having more than one server. The multi-server call pickup system is adapted to enable a user to pick up another user's call from a selected destination anywhere within the network, including outside the local server in a multi-server network. The directed call pickup system includes a pickup request unit (150) that is used for initiating the call pickup feature from a specified location in the network. A remote determination unit (152) and a local determination unit (154) to determine whether to establish local or remote connections to a call pickup user may also be provided. A call establishing unit (156) with a negotiation process for connection establishment is provided to establish a connection between the call originating user (166) and the call pickup user (170). A notification unit (158) may be provided to notify the system of the completed connection. A link release unit (160) may also be provided to release any temporary links used in establishing the connection. A restriction checking unit (162) may be provided as well to ensure that the pickup user is appropriate for picking up the call. An exception handler (164) to enable the appropriate handling of service errors may also be provided.

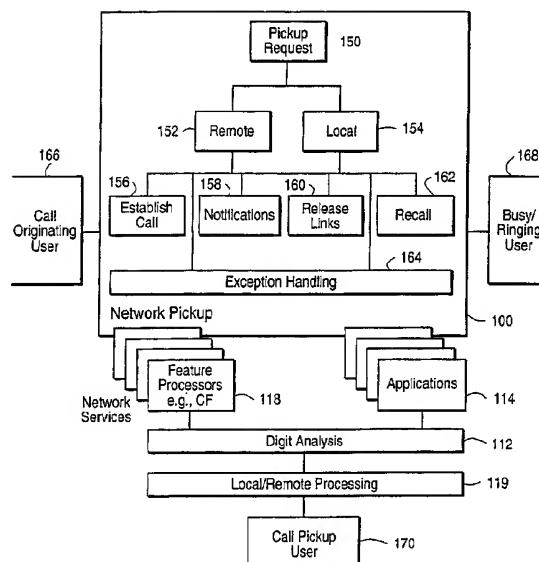


FIG. 3



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 11 2087

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<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 (03.02.92) (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 99 11 2087

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